

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**BY FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Applicant: Melanie John, et al.
Serial No: not yet known (based on PCT/DE2003/003025)
International Filing Date: 9/11/2003
Title: Flat Connecting Hook

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the first office action, please amend the instant application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the attached amended paragraphs of pages 1, 3, and 4-5 for the corresponding paragraphs on file.

Please add the attached Abstract of the Disclosure to the specification.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 through 12 of the literal translation are cancelled.

Please add the attached new claims 13-24 to the specification.